

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07
/036 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:AJA
APPROVED BY EA/P:MSMITH
-----142010Z 004677 /64

R 131918Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
GOVGUAM
TREASURY

UNCLAS STATE 109104

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 11 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA/THAILAND

REUTER (SINGAPORE 5/10) REPORTS RADIO HANOI SAID TUES THAT
US/SRV RELS CAN ONLY BE NORMALIZED IF US CONTRIBUTES
TOWARD "HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR" IN VN. COMMENTING
ON RENEWED TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, RADIO SAID VN
READY AMICABLY DISCUSS SETTLEMENT OUTSTANDING POST-WAR
PROBLEMS/NORMALIZATION RELS--BUT WHETHER NEXT SESSION
OF TALKS SUCCESSFUL "DEPENDS COMPLETELY" ON US. RADIO
NOTED THAT MANY NATIONS NOT INVOLVED IN VN WAR NOW
VOLUNTARILY CONTRIBUTING TO COUNTRY'S RECONSTRUCTION, AND
EVEN SOME INVOLVED IN WAR IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ARE
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CONSIDERING CONTRIBUTIONS--SO, HOW CAN US "EVADE ITS
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE DESTRUCTION IT CAUSED?"

ACCORDING REP WOLFF, HE HAS RECEIVED CALL FROM GEN
SCOWCROFT STATING NIXON WILL WRITE CONGRESSMAN HIS
EXPLANATION FOR 1973 OFFER OF AID TO HANOI (AP, SUN; WP).

RULING THAI MIL JUNTA SENTENCED 18 TO LONG JAIL TERMS TUES
FOR THEIR ROLES IN ATTEMPTED COUP MARCH 26; 2 OTHERS, IN
ABSENTIA, SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT; UNDER MARTIAL

LAW, ALL SENTENCED WITHOUT TRIAL (NYT BANGKOK SPEC;
REUTER BANGKOK 9/10).

2. INDOCHINA/JAPAN

JAPANESE FREIGHTER ARRIVED KITAKYUSHU 5/11 CARRYING 79
VIET REFUGEES FOUND DRIFTING IN SMALL BOAT IN S CHINA
SEA 9 DAYS AGO. ALL IN GOOD CONDITION/WISH GO TO US.
JUSTICE MINISTRY SAID REFUGEES WILL BE GRANTED TEMPORARY
PERMITS/LOOKED AFTER BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS DURING JAPAN
STAY (REUTER KITAKYUSHU).

3. JAPAN

BILL ENSURING CONTINUED USE US/JAPANESE MIL BASES IN
OKINAWA APPVD IN JAPAN'S LOWER HOUSE AFTER ALL-NITE SES-
SION 5/11. BILL IMMEDIATELY SENT TO UPPER HOUSE/PROVIDES
FOR 5-YR EXTENSION ON CURRENT 5-YR INTERIM LAW ON USE
OF BASES/OTHER MIL FACILITIES IN OKINAWA BY BOTH US/SDF
(REUTER TOKYO).

US-JAPAN FAILED REACH AGREEMENT AT LATEST LONDON TALKS
RE RESTRICTIONS ON JAPANESE COLOR TV EXPORTS TO US.
MITI SOURCES SAID COUNTRIES AGREED AT TOKYO TALKS EARLY
LAST WK ON METHOD/PROCEDURE RESTRICTING EXPORTS/SAY JAPAN
WANTS SHIP AT LEAST 2 MIL SETS ANNUALLY, COMPARED W/3
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MIL SHIPPED LAST YR (REUTER TOKYO 5/10).

DOT ORDER LAST WK COUNTERVAILING AGAINST IMPORTS JAPANESE
NUTS/BOLTS REPLETE W/"FIRSTS" INCL: 1ST TIME DOT HAS
APPLIED SUCH DUTIES AGAINST JAPANESE PRODUCT; CASE ONE
OF LARGEST IN TERMS OF TRADE VOLUME IN WHICH DOT ORDERED
DUTIES. DOT OFFICIALS DENY ACTION INVOLVED FIRING US
POLICY TOWARD JAPAN'S EXPORTS. OTHERS SUGGEST, HOWEVER,
DOT WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN SUCH ACTION 5-6 YRS AGO (JOC).

CALDER/MATSUURA (CSM, TOKYO) WRITE ON JAPAN'S BULLET
TRAIN, WHICH GAINING WORLDWIDE APPEAL DUE ITS ABILITY
TRANSPORT VAST NUMBERS PEOPLE ECONOMICALLY/SAFELY. COUN-
TRIES ON 3 CONTINENTS CURRENTLY BUILDING/PREPARING BUILD
BULLET TRAIN LINES USING JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY. US NOT
YET TO THAT STAGE, THO AMTRAK REPORTEDLY INTERESTED.

JAPAN'S FEMINISTS--NOTORIOUS "PINK PANTHERS"--PLAN RUN
MANY AS 20 CANDIDATES IN JULY'S UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS.
CHIEF ORGANIZER ENOKI CLAIMS 4,000 FOLLOWERS/SEEKS
STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S LEGAL RTS IN MARRIAGE/EMPLOYMENT,

LIBERALIZE ABORTION/BIRTH CONTROL LAWS (SUN'S SEIDEN,
TOKYO).

4. CHINA

CBS 5/11 MORNING RADIO REPORTS ADMIN OFFICIAL SAYING US FOR PAST 2 YEARS HAS BEEN OPPOSING ROC'S SENDING NEW AMB, FOR FEAR ACCEPTANCE NEW TAIWAN ENVOY WOULD INJURE PROGRESS OF US-PRC RELS. SOURCE ADDED THAT US NOT REPLACING ITS AMB IN TAIPEI FOR SAME REASON.

PRC'S NEW UN AMB, CHEN CHU, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO SEC GEN WALDHEIM TUES (REUTER UN, 5/10).

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KATHLEEN TELTSCH (SPEC TO NYT-UN) NOTES PRC FILLED ITS TOP UN POST WHICH HAD BEEN OPEN 6 MONTHS. SAYS CHEN CHU PLAYED ROLE IN PROMOTING NUMBER OF TRADE AGREEMENTS/ CONSIDERED SPECIALIST IN SOV AFFAIRS/EXPERIENCED IN DEALING WITH CONCERNS OF 3RD WORLD COUNTRIES. DIPS RECALL HIS ENERGETIC DEBATING STYLE. SAYS FIRST IMPRESSION ONE OF STERNNESS, BUT AMERICANS FOUND CHEN MAN OF HUMOR/KINDNESS W/DISARMING CURIOSITY RE THINGS AMERICAN. CHEN WILL SOON HAVE NEW DEPUTY WHEN CHANG WEN-CHIN ARRIVES TO LEAD PRC DEL TO LOS MEETINGS.

PRC RADIO BROADCASTS INDICATE MAO HAS BEEN OPENLY CRITICIZED. BROADCASTS SAY CRITICISM MUST BE STOPPED (AP-HK, SUN; WP).

INDUSTRY TRADERS SAY PRC HAS CONTRACTED BUY 50,000 BALES US COTTON, TO BE SHIPPED SEPT. SOME LINK PURCHASE WITH REPORTED DROUGHT/OTHERS SUGGEST PRC ATTEMPTING NORMALIZE RELS WITH US VIA INCREASED TRADE (REUTER NY, 5/10).

NCNA REPORTS DISCOVERY 3,000-YR-OLD TOMB IN HONAN PROVINCE BUILT FOR WIFE OF KING WU TING OF 12TH CENTURY BC, YIN DYNASTY (REUTER HK).

5. KOREA

PRESSED BY 52 CONGRESSMEN, HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE SAID INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGED SK BRIBERY SCANDAL ON HILL IN "HIGH GEAR,/PLANS MAKE FIRST REPORT BY EARLY JUNE (UPI, WP).

6. INDONESIA

FROM SINGAPORE, LORENZ (JOC) REPORTS UNCERTAINTY CONTINUES CHARACTERIZE FOM TRADE/INVESTMENT PROSPECTS IN INDONESIA, THO GOI'S ASSUMPTION 150-MIL-DOL PERTAMINA DEBT MAY HELP UNCLASSIFIED

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RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN INTL BUSINESS/FINANCIAL COMMUNITY. STILL, ECON ANALYSTS SEE IMMEDIATE OUTLOOK FOR INDO'S ECONOMY BLEAK; FON DEBT ENORMOUS/INFLATION HIGHER THAN IN OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES/DIRECT FON INVESTMENT PLUNGED FROM 2 BIL DOLS IN '75 TO 432 MIL DOLS IN '76.

7. PHILIPPINES

HEAD SLUM COMMUNITY ORG HERRERA, REPRESENTING SOME 175,000 SLUM DWELLERS IN CENTRAL MANILA, UNDER MIL DETENTION PAST 2 WKS. HER LAWYER CLAIMS SHE HAS BEEN VICITM "PHYSICAL TORTURE, SPECIFICALLY ELECTRIC SHOCK." NEITHER ARREST/REASON FOR IT ANNOUNCED BY GOVT. INMATES HAVE SMUGGLED OUT UNCONFIRMED REPORTS HERRERA TORTURED/COULD NOT FEED OR BATHE HERSELF FOR DAYS AFTERWARD. SINCE HERRERA'S ARREST, 3 OTHER SLUM LEADERS ARRESTED. ACTION VIEWED AS WAY DISRUPT ORG'S ANNUAL MTG, SCHEDULED 5/15 (WIDEMAN, WP, MANILA).

8. AUSTRALIA

ACCORDING DEP PM ANTHONY, AUSTRALIA COULD BECOME SITE ENRICHMENT PLANT TO PROCESS NUKE FUEL TO SERVE INDUSTRIES EUR/JAPAN (CSM).

JOC'S STOVE (SYDNEY) REPORTS GOA UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM OIL COS TO INCREASE PRICE LOCALLY PRODUCED CRUDE OIL. CONCERN OVER INFLATION CAUSES GOA RESIST, THO DOUBTFUL IT CAN HOLD OUT INDEFINITELY. OIL FIRMS COMPLAIN ARTIFICIALLY LOW PRICE RESTRICTS OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA, WHICH IN TURN COULD HAVE DISASTROUS EFFECT ON COUNTRY'S LONG-TERM FUEL SUPPLY.

ANALGESIC SALES IN AUSTRALIA BEING BROUGHT UNDER TIGHTER CONTROL ON RECOMMENDATION NATL HEALTH/MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (JOC).
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COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. VN/HOLBROOKE

JOHN ROCHE (WSTAR 5/10), REVIEWING US NEGOTS WITH HANOI/HAVANA, CONCLUDES WE "SEEM TO HAVE LOST OUR CAPACITY TO DISTINGUISH FRIEND FROM FOE." SAYS BOTH SRV/CUBA "BANKRUPT TOTALITARIAN COUNTRIES DESPERATELY IN NEED" OF ECON/TECH AID, "DEDICATED OPPONENTS" HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF US, BOTH ATTEMPTING "NORMALIZE" RELS "IN HOPES WE WILL BAIL THEM OUT." CONTENTS "NO ONE CAN BLAME THEM FOR TRYING TO ROLL A DRUNK, BUT A SERIOUS CASE CAN BE MADE

AGAINST OUR GETTING STONED."

EA'S HOLBROOKE STRIKES ROCHE AS "DECENT," BUT TO PUT HIM IN RING WITH "VETERAN CUTTHROAT" LIKE PHAN HIEN "IS ABSURD. YOU SEE, HOLBROOKE FEELS GUILTY ABOUT OUR VIETNAM COMMITMENT. I FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT, TOO, BUT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS: WE BOTCHED IT ; AND WE THEN ABANDONED 16 MILLION SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO SAVE TOTALITARIANS." CITES WORDS OF NGUYEN KONG HOAN, ONCE THIEU CRITIC/FORMER HANOI LEGISLATOR, THAT SOUTH VIETS NOW REALIZE THEY LOST PRECIOUS THING, WOULD LIKE US ARMS AID TO REGAIN FREEDOM. ROCHE SUGGESTS "PERHAPS WE SHOULD SEND NGUYEN KONG HOAN TO PARIS TO ADVISE HOLBROOKE" WHEN "UTTERLY UNFAZED HANOI" DEL HAS "GALL TO DEMAND PAYMENT FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT."

10. HUMAN RIGHTS

FROM LONDON, CHARLES MOHR (NYT) NOTES PRES CARTER CONTINUED EXPRESS CONCERNS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE DURING LONDON ECON SUMMIT, BUT SAYS HE'D BEGUN LONG BEFORE TAKE MORE CONVENTIONAL/CAUTIOUS/DIP APPROACH TO PROBLEM. SAYS CARTER NOW SEEMS SHAREVIEWMORE ACCOMPLISHED VIA QUIET DIP PRESSURE THAN OPEN CRITICISM KREMLIN/FORBADE PHOTO OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SELF W/OUTSPOKEN SOV DISSIDENT BUKOVSKY. ADDS NO RECORD PRES/DOS HAVE SPOKEN OUT ON ANY SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE SINCE THAT MTG, ALTHO PRES SAID WOULD "NEVER BACK DOWN" ON HUMAN RIGHTS STAND.

MOHR CONTENDS PRES INVESTED MUCH DOMESTIC POL PRESTIGE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE/TENDS REJECT IMPLICATION SOFTENING APPROACH/EXPECTED STRESS SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NOTRE DAME UNIV SPEECH THIS MONTH; BUT WHETHER PRES RESERVES RIGHT SPEAK OUT OR CRITICIZES VIOLATORS BY NAME WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED QUESTION.

11. ECON SUMMIT

RESTON (NYT) SEES CHIEF QUESTION AS HOW CARTER WILL IMPLEMENT LONDON PROMISES. PRIVATELY, WITH LEADERS CONCEDE THAT TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVE OF SECURE WORLD ECON ORDER, THEY MUST GO BEYOND "CONSULTATION," "HARMONIZING," "COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING" RHETORIC. REMARKS TEST PRES' LEADERSHIP JUST BEGINNING. OPINES CARTER CANNOT "HARMONIZE" INDUSTRIAL WORLD UNTIL HE HARMONIZES OWN ADMIN; CANNOT "CONSULT" EFFECTIVELY W/OTHER NATIONS UNLESS HE CONSULTS LITTLE

MORE IN ADVANCE W/CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS "AND TAKES THEM ALONG NEXT TIME."

SMITH (NYT) SAYS CARTER WON OVER/IMPRESSED "SOME PROUD

AND TOUCHY" EUR LEADERS, ACHIEVED ALL HE DESIRED FROM
SUMMIT: FRG/JAPAN COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE PRE-ESTABLISHED
GROWTH TARGETS; ALL 6 COUNTRIES PROMISED STUDY WAYS SATISFY
EUR/JAPAN NUKE ENERGY NEEDS W/O RAISING DANGER PROLIF.
ON HUMAN RTS, PRES WAS CONTENT STATE OWN VIEWS W/O PRESSING
FOR COLLECTIVE DECLARATION. ASKS WHETHER SUMMIT SUCCESS
CAN BE CONVERTED INTO NEW EFFECTIVENESS AT HOME, ESPECIALLY
IN RELS W/CONGRESS.

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WIEGHART (NYDN) REMARKS ADJUSTMENTS IN WORLD TRADE POLICIES
KEY ITEM FOR RESOLUTION. STATES UNLESS JAPAN/FRG AGREE
STOP FLOODING MARKETS W/EXPORTS, PRESSURE TO ERECT TRADE
BARRIERS AGAINST THEM "WILL BECOME INEXORABLE," AND ALL
7 NATIONS CANNOT AFFORD RESORT TO PROTECTION W/O INVITING
CHAOS. CONCLUDES SUMMIT WAS POL PLUS ?OR CARTER, BUT
MARKS ONLY BEGINNING OF COOPERATIVE EFFORT SOLVE WEST'S
KEY PROBLEMS, "NOT A SUCCESSFUL SOLUTION."

NYT NOTES CARTER FOUND IT DIFFICULT PRESS FOR ECON STIMU-
LUS AFTER ABANDONING DOMESTIC TAX REBATE PLAN; RATHER,
"SETTLED" FOR FRG/JAPAN COMMITMENTS TO ACHIEVE CAUTIOUS/
HEDGED GROWTH TARGETS PREVIOUSLY SET. PRAISES PRES FOR
STICKING TO HIS POSITION RE SPREAD NUKE TECHNOLOGY. STATES
"UNQUESTIONED NEED" FOR NUKE ENERGY IN W EUR/JAPAN DOESN'T
JUSTIFY "RUSH TOWARD PLUTONIUM." ADDS FACT THAT SUCH
MTGS BECOMING INSTITUTIONALIZED "IS ITSELF A HEARTENING
SIGN OF MATURITY."

WSTAR (5/10) DISCUSSES "HIGH-MINDEDNESS" SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE.
STATES IT SHOWS SOCIETIES HAVE PASSED OVER INTELLECTUAL
BARRIERS TO SENSE OF INTERDEPENDENCE, BUT PSYCHOLOGICAL
BARRIERS REMAIN. SAYS LONDON SUMMIT GOOD START/LITTLE
MORE, AND ITS GOOD INTENTIONS REMAIN BE EXECUTED. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO BROADCASTING, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE109104
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:AJA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770171-1003
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705110/baaaevxj.tel
Line Count: 311
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c269e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Jul-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2345536
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 11 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US, VS
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS MOSCOW MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c269e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009